

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 00249 191558Z  
ACTION ARA-10

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R 191535Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9226

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 0249

FOR ARA/ECA GRAHAM

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, PA  
SUBJ: PARAGUAYAN ATTENDANCE AT IAF-SPONSORED CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 9121

1. AS DEPARTMENT MAY BE AWARE THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION IS SPONSORING A CONFERENCE OF INDIGENISTS IN PANAMA BEGINNING JANUARY 24, TO WHICH PROF. MIGUEL CHASE SARDI OF MARANDU AND INDIAN LEADER ALBERTO SANTACRUZ HAVE BEEN INVITED. REFTEL PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH FISCAL DATA TO FACILITATE THE ATTENDANCE OF THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS AT THE CONFERENCE. THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH SANTACRUZ' TRAVEL, AND THE TRAVEL ADVANCE WILL BE PROVIDED TO HIM.

2. AS DEPARTMENT ALSO IS AWARE, WHEN PROF. CHASE WAS RELEASED FROM DETENTION LAST SUMMER HIS PERSONAL ID'S AND PASSPORT WERE RETAINED BY THE CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS. EFFORTS BY THE EMBASSY TO CONVINCE THE GOP THAT THESE DOCUMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE PASSPORT, SHOULD BE RETURNED TO PROF. CHASE HAVE BEEN UNAVAILING. AMBASSADOR LANDAU BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 15 AND HIS DEPARTURE ON HOME LEAVE DEC. 2 SPOKE TO TOP RANKING GOP OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE INVESTIGATIONS CHIEF'S NOMINAL SUPERIORS, ON AT LEAST NINE OCCASIONS, AND WAS REPEATEDLY ASSURED  
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THAT THE PASSPORT WOULD BE RETURNED. ON DECEMBER 2 THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR PROMISED TO TAKE CARE OF IT THAT VERY DAY.

3. I MYSELF HAVE HAD EIGHT SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THIS SINGLE MATTER SINCE MY RETURN FROM HOME LEAVE IN OCTOBER, MOST RECENTLY WITH SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL

ADVISOR PAPPALARDO (CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON TO ATTEND INAUGURATION), WITH THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, AND WITH INTERIOR MINISTER MONTANARO, ON DECEMBER 17, ALL OF WHOM SEPARATELY ASSURED ME THAT THERE WAS NO PROBLEM AND THE PASSPORT WOULD BE GIVEN BACK TO CHASE.

4. PROF. CHASE INFORMED ME THIS MORNING THAT HE AGAIN VISITED THE INVESTIGATIONS POLICE AND WAS TOLD THAT NO INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM ON HIGH TO RELEASE HIS PASSPORT.

5. I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE FROM THIS THAT THE GOP PROBABLY WILL NOT ALLOW PROF. CHASE TO TRAVEL ABROAD, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE UNDER NO MISAPPREHENSION THAT THIS COULD PROVOKE FOREIGN CRITICISM. BOTH PAPPALARDO AND MONTANARO ARE AWARE OF THE NEGATIVE REACTION THIS COULD EVOKE PARTICULARLY AMONG INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE. (FYI. PAPPALARDO ESPECIALLY HAS COMMITTED HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE IN SEEKING TO BREAK LOOSE THE PASSPORT.)

6. EMBASSY WILL MAKE ONE MORE EFFORT WITH INTERIOR MINISTER JANUARY 20. MEANWHILE, YOU MAY WISH TO ALERT INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION (ANN TERNES) WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS BEEN IN DIRECT TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION WITH PROFESSOR CHASE.  
BRIGGS

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